



Customer Focus

People and communities are mobilizing to protect our resources and maintain working lands in New Hampshire. Senator Judd Gregg comments "These FPP awards are great news not only for the people of the surrounding communities affected by these grants, but for the effort to protect New Hampshire's farmlands across the State. I was pleased to be involved with the award for the Sunnycrest Orchard as it has long been a key part of our state's agricultural and environmental heritage."

The Sunnycrest Orchard, a 154-acre parcel located in Merrimack County, consists of productive orchard, fields, and forestland. The orchards, crop fields, and forest land shall be maintained in accordance with conservation plan in order to protect its valuable natural resources. With the help of FPP and the City of Concord Conservation Trust, these lands will be maintained as productive farmland for perpetuity.

"FPP will help ensure that family farms remain an economically viable component of the State. We are working hard in New Hampshire to protect our open spaces and our state's rural character. Protecting our working farmland is critical to the success of the effort. New Hampshire has a long tradition of farming, but it is a tradition that many family farmers are struggling to continue. As a result, farmlands are among the most vulnerable of our open spaces," says Governor Jeanne Shaheen. "These conservation easements will help make it financially possible for families to keep their farms as working agricultural operations, protecting open space, ensuring New Hampshire a local food supply and preserving an important part of our heritage."

Farmland Protection Program New Hampshire Summary

Overview The USDA Farmland Protection Program (FPP) helps farmers keep their productive land in agriculture. The program assists States, Tribes, local governments and non-profit organizations by purchasing conservation easements for the purpose of limiting conversion to non-agricultural uses. NRCS provides up to 50% of the easement cost to the cooperating entity, which acquires, manages, and enforces the easement. Landowners participate voluntarily, and protected farms remain in private ownership. Every protected farm operates under a conservation plan approved by the local Conservation District. Nationally, over \$52 million have been obligated to state and local entities since establishment of the program in 1996. Proposals were accepted in 1996, 1997, 1998, and 2001.

Accomplishments The Farmland Protection Program has been established to help slow the trend of converting farmland to nonagricultural uses. Over the past 5 years, this program has assisted in protecting over 1,000 acres of important farmland with FPP support in the amount of nearly \$1.1 million. Last year, for 2001, NRCS in New Hampshire received FPP requests totaling \$2,182,800 to help protect 1,004 acres of farmland. New Hampshire received \$506,300 in 2001 and was able to assist in the protection of 476 acres. Despite this, New Hampshire had a shortfall of \$1,676,500 and 528 acres.

Outlook According to the NRCS National Resources Inventory, between 1982 and 1997, New Hampshire's cropland decreased by 23,300 acres representing a loss of 1,553 acres per year. Urban development accounts for over 82 percent of the loss. During this

15- year period, New Hampshire lost 48,300 acres of pasture and cropland to non-agricultural use, approximately 16 percent of New Hampshire's farmland. While agricultural land use is on the decline, urban land increased by 209,600 acres from 1982 to 1997. This accounts for a 55% increase over 1982 figures. Of this increase, nine percent came from cropland. The gross acreage of cropland converted to urban development is not necessarily the most troubling concern. A greater cause for concern is the quality and pattern of cropland being converted. According to the National Resources Inventory, prime and important agricultural soils are being converted 2 to 4 times the rate of other less-productive land. In addition, the remaining farmland is placed under greater environmental, economic and social strain as agricultural and



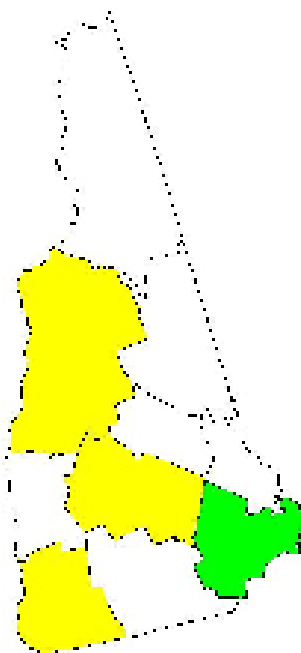
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New Hampshire

FPP Easements



- Counties with acquired FPP acreage
- Counties with both acquired and pending FPP acreage



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS

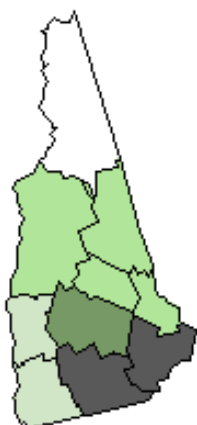
Farmland Protection Program New Hampshire Easements (As of December 2001)

County: Cheshire
Acres: 93
Total Easement Cost: \$150,000
Average per acre: \$1,613
Federal Payment Amount: \$70,000
Percentage: 47%

County: Grafton
Acres: 352
Total Easement Cost: \$484,000
Average per acre: \$1,375
Federal Payment Amount: \$169,000
Percentage: 35%

County: Merrimack
Acres: 154
Total Easement Cost: \$810,000
Average per acre: \$5,260
Federal Payment Amount: \$300,000
Percentage: 37%

Difference in Population between 1990 and 2000 New Hampshire



Change in Population

- < 0
- 0 to 5,000
- 5,000 to 10,000
- 10,000 to 20,000
- > 20,000

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, Census of Population 2000

County: Rockingham
Acres: 449
Total Easement Cost: \$2,052,500
Average per acre: \$4,471
Federal Payment Amount: \$532,300
Percentage: 26%

New Hampshire Totals:

Acres: 1,048
Total Easement Cost: \$3,496,500
Average per acre: \$3,336
Federal Payment Amount: \$1,071,300

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